

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

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FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3650

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DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 5546

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINR GH

SUBJ: SMC ANNOUNCES PERSONNEL CHANGES

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL (SMC) ANNOUNCED JULY 28 FOLLOWING CHANGES IN GOVERNMENT AND MILITARY ASSIGNMENTS: (A) LT COL ABDULAI IBRAHAM WILL BECOME COMMISSIONER FOR LANDS AND MINERAL RESOURCES, REPLACING COL. D.A. IDDISAH WHO HAS RESIGNED FROM GOVERNMENT SERVICE AND RETIRED FROM THE MILITARY EFFECTIVE JULY 31; (B) MAJ EDWQRD YIREMANBO WILL BECOME COMMISSIONER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT, REPLACING COL GEORGE MINYILA WHO WILL RETURN TO ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY AS DIRECTOR OF LOGISTICS; (C) COMMANDER EDWARD OSEI WILL BECOME EASTERN REGIONAL COMMISSIONER, REPLACING COL. K.A. TAKYI WHO WILL RETURN TO ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY AS MILITARY SECRETARY IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE; AND (D) SMC CHAIRMAN ACHEAMPONG WILL ADD THE MINISTRY OF COCOA AFFAIRS TO HIS EXISTING PORTFOLIOS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, REPLACING CAPTAIN J.A. KYEREMEH WHO WILL BE ATTENDING THE NAVAL WAR COLLEGE IN THE U.S. THE SMC ANNOUNCEMENT NOTED THAT THE CHANGES WERE CONSISTENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY THAT MILITARY PERSONNEL SHOULD ROTATE THEIR MILITARY AND CIVILIAN ASSIGNMENTS. END UNCLASSIFIED

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2. COMMENT: THESE ARE NOT UNEXPECTED CHANGES -- IDDISAH'S

RESIGNATION/RETIREMENT HAS BEEN BRUITED ABOUT SINCE MAY, APPARENTLY BECAUSE HE IS MORE CORRUPT THAN IS CURRENTLY FASHIONABLE, AND IT HAS BEEN KNOWN FOR SOME TIME THAT TAKYI AND KYEREMEH WOULD BE LEAVING THEIR PRESENT POSITIONS TO RETURN TO THE MILITARY. IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT COMMANDER OSEI HAS JUST FINISHED SERVING AS PRESIDENT OF THE MILITARY TRIBUNAL WHICH TRIED THE MOST RECENT GROUP OF COUP PLOTTERS AND FOUND SEVEN OF EIGHT GUILTY. IN ABSENCE OF FULL-TIME COMMISSIONER IT IS LIKELY THAT CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF COCOA MARKETING BOARD (COMMANDER ADDO) WILL RESUME FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR COCOA AFFAIRS. THE ELEVATION OF A MOJOR TO THE NRC SEEMS TO BE A CONTRINUATION OF ACHEAMPONG'S EFFORTS TO WARD OFF DISCONTENT AMONG THE YOUNGER OFFICERS BY GIVING THEM A FEW PROMINENT,IF NOT IMPORTANT, POSITIONS.
GRANER

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